

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# ElderJustice INITIATIVE

## Get Involved, Get Safe

Stop Elder Abuse and  
Neglect



# STATISTICS ON ELDER ABUSE

Abused seniors are  
**3 times**  
more likely to die  
than non-abused seniors.<sup>[1]</sup>

**Cognitive decline**  
is a **risk factor** for elder abuse,  
including **financial exploitation**.<sup>[2]</sup>

Approximately  
**1 in 10 seniors**  
is abused **each year**.<sup>[3]</sup>

Abuse seniors are **more likely** to be  
**placed in nursing homes**  
than non-abused older adults.<sup>[4]</sup>

Elder abuse is **dramatically underreported**.  
Only **1 in every 23 cases**  
is reported to **Adult Protective Services**.<sup>[5]</sup>

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# IMPACT OF ELDER ABUSE

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- Suffering, illness, or premature death
- Nursing home and hospital admittance
- Large economic losses
- Caregiver hardship



# TYPES OF ELDER ABUSE

- Physical
- Psychological
- Financial
- Sexual
- Neglect/Abandonment





# PHYSICAL ABUSE

- Pushing, shoving, hitting
- Kicking, biting, slapping
- Burning, shaking, pinching
- Punching, physically restraining
- Locking a person up
- Not allowing use of restroom
- Over or under medicating
- Using weapons



# PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE

- Verbal abuse such as belittling or blaming
- Intimidation and threats (non-verbal and verbal)
- Ridiculing beliefs
- Humiliation
- Isolation
- Stalking



# FINANCIAL ABUSE

- Theft of social security/pension check
- Forcing or coercing a senior to withdraw funds
- Deceiving a senior to get money (in person, by phone, mail, computer, radio, or TV)
- Taking a senior's property, jewelry, valuables without consent





# SEXUAL ABUSE

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- Nonconsensual sexual contact
- Forced oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse
- Unwanted touching or fondling
- Exhibitionism or forcing a senior to view or participate in pornography
- Using sexual language





# NEGLECT AND ABANDONMENT

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Failure to provide for the needs of a senior:

- Food
- Shelter
- Clothes
- Hygiene
- Healthcare
- Social interaction
- Desertion of a senior





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# What are Some of the Warning Signs of Abuse?

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# SOME WARNING SIGNS OF ABUSE

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- Physical - unexplained bruises, repeated injuries, broken bones
- Psychological - crying, agitated, ashamed, depressed, afraid
- Financial - large bank withdrawals, unpaid bills, missing items
- Sexual - genital-anal trauma, bleeding, STD's, bruising to breasts, painful urination
- Neglect – dehydration, poor hygiene, poor living conditions
- Abandonment – seeing a vulnerable elder left alone in distress

# CAUSES OF ELDER ABUSE

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- Ageism
- Societal attitudes
- Stereotyping of seniors
- Lack of awareness

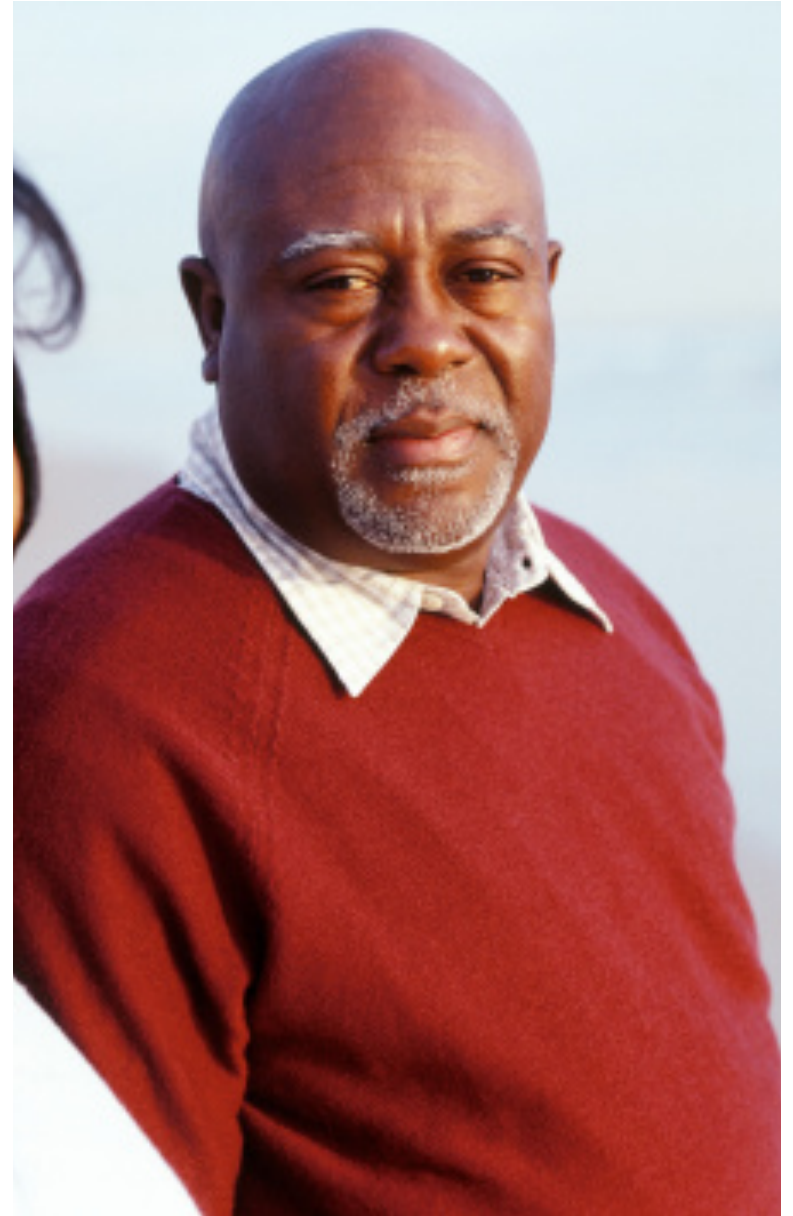




# OTHER CAUSES OF ELDER ABUSE

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- Intergenerational violence
- History of domestic violence
- Entitlement
- History of mental illness of the caregiver or the senior
- Addictions- drugs, alcohol, gambling



# PERPETRATORS OF ELDER PHYSICAL ABUSE

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- Family Members 57.9%
- Friends and neighbors 16.9%
- Home Care Aides 14.9%



# PREVENTING ELDER ABUSE

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- Listen to seniors
- Intervene when you suspect abuse
- Call Adult Protective Services
- Call the Ombudsman
- Call the police to make a report or do a welfare check
- Watch for signs
- Get involved



# TIPS FOR SENIORS

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- Keep financial affairs in order
- Stay connected
- Call for help
- Get a Civil Restraining Order
- File criminal charges
- Get a cell phone or alert pendant
- Watch out for each other





# RESOURCES

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For all types of elder abuse help, please see:

The Elder Justice Initiative [elderjustice.gov](http://elderjustice.gov)

The National Center for Victims of Crime [www.ncvc.org](http://www.ncvc.org)

Victim Connect Hotline 1-855-484-2846, 9am-7pm Monday-Friday

# RESOURCES

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## **Physical Abuse Resource:**

The National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

## **Psychological Abuse Resource:**

National Adult Protective Services Association [www.napsa-now.org](http://www.napsa-now.org)

## **Financial Abuse Resources:**

Federal Trade Commission [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov)

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau [www.consumerfinance.gov/](http://www.consumerfinance.gov/)

Military Consumer Protection Day (for veterans) [www.military.ncpw.gov](http://www.military.ncpw.gov)

# RESOURCES

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## **Sexual Assault Resource:**

National Sexual Violence Resource Center 1-877-739-3895

## **Neglect and Abandonment Resources :**

Neglect in nursing homes, see map of ombudsman resources at National Consumer Voice, <http://theconsumervoice.org>

**Other neglect or abandonment:** see map of Adult Protective Services at The National Adult Protective Service Association [www.napsa-now.org](http://www.napsa-now.org)

# CONCLUSION





# REFERENCES

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Information for this presentation was obtained from:

- The National Center on Elder Abuse
- The National Center for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
- The National Institute of Justice
- The Census Bureau
- Elder Abuse Detection and Intervention; Brandl, B.; Dyer, Bitondo, C.; Heisler, C.; Marlatt, Otto J.; Stiegel, L.; Thomas, R.
- The National Council on Aging

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